

## Accessibility in Existing Facilities

ADA is an acronym for the Americans with Disabilities Act enacted in 1990. This is a federal law with goal to prevent discrimination against disabled people in the US and is administered by the Federal Government. Rules are retroactive in the sense that existing facilities should comply. If a person with a disability finds that a building is not in compliance with regulations for physical accessibility, he or she can request that the owner correct it. If that correction is not made, the next step is to file a complaint with the Department of Justice.

Building code accessibility rules are found in Chapter 1341 of the Minnesota State Building Code, which is based on the International Building Code and the American National Standard Institute A117.1 as amended by the state and Chapter 1311 of the Minnesota State Building Code. The building code applies to construction, alteration, repair, and change of use. New work is required to comply with the code as for new buildings. Depending on the work, the use and the specific building conditions, some existing non-compliant conditions may be required to be made compliant, and other non-compliant conditions may remain.

Questions regarding accessibility in buildings that are undergoing, will be, or have undergone alterations should be directed to plan review staff in the Construction Services Division at 218/730-5240.